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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/584,633

06/26/2006

Takao Nakajima

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EXAMINER

STOCKTON, LAURA LYNNE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1626

MAIL DATE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/584,633	Applicant(s) NAKAJIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Laura L. Stockton	Art Unit 1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on June 26, 2006 {Prelim. Amendment}.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22, 24-43 and 48-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22, 24-43 and 48-50 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-22, 24-43 and 48-50 are pending in the application.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Due to the variables in the claims, e.g. R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , etc., and their widely divergent meanings, a precise listing of inventive groups cannot be made. The following groups are exemplary:

Group I. Claims 1-4, 6, 11-14, 24-27, 29, 34-35 and 38 (in-part), drawn to products of formula (I) or formula (IA) wherein R^1 is unsubstituted or substituted 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing at least one oxygen atom; R^2 is unsubstituted or substituted aromatic heterocyclic group; one of R^3 and

R^4 is COR^{12} and the other is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl; and R^{12} is unsubstituted or substituted aromatic heterocyclic group.

Group II. Claims 1-5, 11-14, 24-28, 34-35 and 38 (in-part), drawn to products of formula (I) or formula (IA) wherein R^1 is unsubstituted or substituted 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing at least one oxygen atom; R^2 is unsubstituted or substituted aryl; one of R^3 and R^4 is COR^{12} and the other is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl; and R^{12} is unsubstituted or substituted aromatic heterocyclic group.

Group III. Claims 1-4, 7-14, 24-27, 30-35, 38-41 and 43 (in-part), drawn to products of formula (I) or formula (IA) or formula (IB) wherein R^1 is unsubstituted or substituted 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing at least one oxygen atom; R^2 is $-COR^8$; R^8 is unsubstituted or substituted aryl; one of R^3 and R^4 is COR^{12} and the other is hydrogen or unsubstituted or

substituted alkyl; and R^{12} is unsubstituted or substituted aromatic heterocyclic group.

Group IV. Claims 1-4, 7-14, 16-18, 24-27, 30-35 and 38-43 (in-part), drawn to products of formula (I) or formula (IA) or formula (IB) wherein R^1 is unsubstituted or substituted 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing at least one oxygen atom; R^2 is $-COR^8$; R^8 is unsubstituted or substituted alicyclic heterocyclic group; one of R^3 and R^4 is COR^{12} and the other is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl; and R^{12} is unsubstituted or substituted aromatic heterocyclic group.

Group V. Claims 1-4, 7-12, 16-22 and 39-43 (in-part), drawn to products of formula (I) or formula (IB) wherein R^1 is unsubstituted or substituted 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing at least one oxygen atom; R^2 is $-COR^8$; R^8 is unsubstituted or substituted alicyclic heterocyclic group; and R^3 and R^4

are the same or different and represents hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl.

Group VI. Claims 1-4, 7-9, 15, 22, 24-27, 30-32 and 36-38 (in-part), drawn to products of formula (I) or formula (IA) wherein R^1 is unsubstituted or substituted 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing at least one oxygen atom; R^2 is $-COR^8$; R^8 is unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl; R^3 and R^4 are each COR^{12} ; and R^{12} is unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl.

Group VII. Claims 48-50 (in-part), drawn to a method for treating using products of formula (I) wherein R^1 is unsubstituted or substituted 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing at least one oxygen atom; R^2 is unsubstituted or substituted aromatic heterocyclic group; one of R^3 and R^4 is COR^{12} and the other is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl; and R^{12} is unsubstituted or substituted aromatic heterocyclic group.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Again, this list is not exhausted as it would be impossible under the time constraints due to the sheer volume of subject matter instantly claimed. Therefore, applicant may choose to elect a single invention by identifying another specific embodiment not listed in the exemplary groups of the invention and the examiner will endeavor to group the same.

The claims herein lack unity of invention under PCT Rule 13.1 and 13.2 since the compounds defined in the claims lack a significant structural element qualifying as the special technical feature that defines a contribution over the prior art. The compounds claimed contain a 2-amino-thiazole ring which does not define a

contribution over the prior art. See, for example, the compound of CA Registry Number 778-51-8 in CA 57:10831, 1962. The substituents on the 2-amino-thiazole ring vary extensively and when taken as a whole result in vastly different compounds. Accordingly, unity of invention is considered to be lacking and restriction of the invention in accordance with the rules of unity of invention is considered to be proper.

Additionally, the vastness of the claimed subject matter and the complications in understanding the claimed subject matter imposes a burden on any examination of the claimed subject matter.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper because all these inventions listed in this action are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious search and examination burden if restriction were not required because one or more of the following reasons apply:

- (a) the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification;
- (b) the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art due to their recognized divergent subject matter;
- (c) the inventions require a different field of search (for example, searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries);

- (d) the prior art applicable to one invention would not likely be applicable to another invention;
- (e) the inventions are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144.

If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable upon the elected invention.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In

either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder. All claims directed a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an

allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (571) 272-0710. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 am to 2:30 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

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Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

The Official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

/Laura L. Stockton/

Laura L. Stockton

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1626

Group 1620

Technology Center 1600

April 17, 2009